

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10941 031300Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5157
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10941

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM TECH IN US
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF NUCLEAR MATTERS

1. THE NEW DELHI PRESS AUGUST 2 GENERALLY REPORTED
FRUITFUL TALKS BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE PARTY HEADED BY DEPUTY
UNDER SECRETARY NYE. MOST ARTICLES QUOTED DR. NYE AS SAYING
THAT THERE IS NOW A "GOOD CLIMATE" IN INDO-US RELATIONS
FOR CONSIDERING FURTHER US SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR
THE TARAPUR POWER STATION.

2. THE PRO-CONGRESS "NATIONAL HERALD" RAN A FRONT-PAGE
EDITORIAL (NOT SO LABELED) ENTITLED "'DIALOGUE' OR
BULLYING?" WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE US IS TRYING TO
CORNER THE WORLD ENERGY SUPPLY. WITHOUT MENTIONING THE NYE
VISIT, THE EDITORIAL NOTED CONCERN IN PARLIAMENT OVER
US "THREATS" TO
WITHHOLD FUEL SUPPLIES FOR TARAPUR, IF THE INDO-US
DIALOGUE ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION DID NOT LEAD TO NEW
AGREEMENTS. IT CALLED ON INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES
"NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE HOODWINKED INTO
ACCEPTING PERPETUAL TECHNOLOGICAL COLONIALISM."

3. THE SECOND HALF OF THE HERALD'S ONE-TWO PUNCH WAS
A LONG ARTICLE BY C. RAGHAVAN ENTITLED "NUCLEAR
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ENERGY: LET'S CALL US BLUFF." THIS ARTICLE NOTES THE
NYE VISIT, QUESTIONS THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE US
CLAIM THAT WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM CAN BE EXTRACTED
FROM SPENT FUEL RODS, AND ACCUSES THE US OF SEEKING TO
CONTROL NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION IN NON-NUCLEAR
COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME THE ARTICLE OBSERVES THAT
IN THE ARENA OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THERE IS

"COMPLETE SUPER-POWER COLLABORATION, AIDED BY THE SO-CALLED LONDON CLUB OF NINE WHO HAVE VESTED INTERESTS." RAGHAVAN URGES INDIA TO "REFUSE TO BE BROWBEATEN" BY THE US OVER TARAPUR AND SUGGESTS A LINK BETWEEN US PRESSURE ON TARAPUR AND THE POSSIBILITY OF "RESUMED US AID," HELD OUT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. RAGHAVAN WRITES THAT PERSISTENT US PRESSURE ON TARAPUR FUEL SUPPLIES SHOULD BE MET BY CALLING THE US "BLUFF": ASKING THE US TO REPURCHASE SPENT FUEL "AS PER THE TARAPUR AGREEMENT." HE STATES THAT "NEITHER IN TERMS OF COSTS NOR SAFETY OF TRANSPORT, CAN THE US TAKE BACK AND STORE THEM (FUEL RODS) IN THE US." IF THE US SHOULD OVERCOME THESE OBSTACLES, INDIA SHOULD SEEK SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT ANY PLUTONIUM EXTRACTED BY THE US FROM SPENT TARAPUR FUEL IS USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AS STIPULATED IN THE TARAPUR AGREEMENT.

4. ON ANOTHER NUCLEAR-RELATED SUBJECT, THE CPI'S "PATRIOT" RAN AN EDITORIAL LABELING THE REUTRON BOMB AND THE CRUISE MISSILE "PROVOCATIONS" AND ACCUSED THE US OF SEEKING A FIRST-STRIKE CAPABILITY.GOHEEN

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Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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